

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A safety shield comprising:

a piercing member having a distal end and defining a longitudinal axis; and

a clip defining a first cavity dimensioned for movement of the piercing member therethrough and being oriented in an axis transverse to the longitudinal axis of the piercing member, the clip being movable from a first orientation to a second orientation to reposition the first cavity from a movable orientation to a binding orientation;

the clip including a first leg that defines a second cavity dimensioned for movement of the piercing member therethrough and a distal part being configured to engage a medical device when the clip is in the first orientation, the clip further including a second leg having a bearing surface that engages the piercing member when the clip is in both the first orientation and the second orientation;

wherein the first leg and the second leg are biased for convergent movement toward each other such that when the piercing member is withdrawn from the second cavity, the clip moves from the first orientation to the second orientation to move the first cavity from the movable orientation to the binding orientation, wherein the distal part of the first leg disengages from the medical device when the clip is in the second orientation.

2. (Original) A safety shield as recited in claim 1, wherein the first cavity is rotatable relative to the longitudinal axis of the piercing member.
3. (Original) A safety shield as recited in claim 1, wherein the first cavity defines a binding surface that engages the piercing member in the binding orientation.
4. (Original) A safety shield as recited in claim 1, wherein the clip further includes a plate that defines the first cavity and is oriented substantially perpendicular to the legs.
5. (Original) A safety shield as recited in claim 1, wherein the first leg has a proximal part that is oriented substantially perpendicular to the transverse axis of the first cavity in the movable orientation.
6. (Original) A safety shield as recited in claim 1, wherein the second leg has a proximal part that is oriented substantially perpendicular to the transverse axis of the first cavity in the movable orientation.
7. (Original) A safety shield as recited in claim 1, wherein the distal part of the first leg includes a transverse portion that defines the second cavity.
8. (Original) A safety shield as recited in claim 1, wherein the distal part of the first leg includes an arm configured to releasably retain the medical device.
9. (Original) A safety shield as recited in claim 1, wherein the clip is disposed within a housing.

10. (Original) A safety shield as recited in claim 9, wherein the housing is movable between a retracted position whereby the distal end of the piercing member is exposed and an extended position whereby the housing encloses the distal end of the piercing member.

11. (Original) A safety shield as recited in claim 9, wherein the clip releasably retains the medical device with the housing.

12. (Original) A safety shield as recited in claim 9, wherein the housing is substantially transparent.

13. (Original) A safety shield as recited in claim 9, wherein the housing includes a flash chamber.

14. (Original) A safety shield as recited in claim 1, wherein the medical device includes a catheter.

15. (Currently Amended) A safety shield comprising:

a piercing member having a proximal end, a distal end and defining a longitudinal axis;

a housing having an outer surface; and

a clip including a plate oriented in an axis transverse to the longitudinal axis of the piercing member and defining a cavity, the cavity being dimensioned for movement of the piercing member therethrough, the clip being rotatable from a first orientation to a second orientation to reposition the cavity relative to the longitudinal axis of the piercing member from a

sliding orientation to a binding orientation whereby a surface of the plate that defines the cavity engages the piercing member to prevent slidable movement thereof,

the clip including a first leg extending from the plate and having a proximal part and a distal part, the distal part defining a cavity dimensioned for movement of the piercing member therethrough and the distal part being configured to engage a medical device when the clip is in the first orientation, the clip including a second leg that extends from the plate and has a proximal part and a distal part, the distal part of the second leg including a bearing surface that engages the piercing member when the clip is in both the first orientation and the second orientation;

wherein the legs are resiliently biased for convergent movement toward each other such that when the piercing member is withdrawn from the cavity defined by the distal part of the first leg, the clip moves from the first orientation to the second orientation to move the first cavity from the sliding orientation to the binding orientation, wherein the distal part of the first leg disengages the medical device when the clip is in the second orientation.

16. (Original) A safety shield as recited in claim 15, wherein the piercing member is disposed within the cavity of the first leg to prevent convergent movement of the legs.

17. (Original) A safety shield as recited in claim 15, wherein the housing is movable between an retracted position whereby the distal end of the piercing member is exposed and an extended position whereby the distal end of the piercing member is enclosed within the housing.

18. (Original) A safety shield as recited in claim 15, wherein the distal part of the first leg includes an arm being configured to releasably retain the medical device with the outer surface of the housing.

19. (Original) A safety shield as recited in claim 15, wherein the bearing surface of the second leg engages the piercing member in the binding orientation to prevent movement of the piercing member.

20. (Currently Amended) A safety needle shield apparatus comprising:

a needle having a proximal end, a distal end and defining a longitudinal axis;

a housing having an outer surface and being movable between an retracted position whereby the distal end of the needle is exposed and an extended position whereby the distal end of the piercing member is enclosed within the housing, the housing being substantially transparent and defining a flash chamber; and

a clip including a plate oriented in an axis transverse to the longitudinal axis of the needle and defining a slot dimensioned for movement of the needle therethrough, the clip being rotatable from a first orientation to a second orientation to reposition the cavity relative to the longitudinal axis of the needle from a sliding orientation to a binding orientation whereby a surface of the plate that defines the cavity engages the needle to prevent slidable movement thereof,

the clip including a first leg extending from the plate and having a proximal part and a distal part, the distal part defining a cavity dimensioned for movement of the needle

therethrough such that disposal of the needle in the cavity of the distal part prevents transverse movement of the first leg, the distal part of the first leg including an arm configured to releasably retain a catheter hub in engagement with the outer surface of the housing when the clip is in the first orientation,

the clip further including a second leg that extends from the plate and has a proximal part and a distal part, the distal part of the second leg including a bearing surface that engages the needle in both the first orientation and the second orientation of the clip,

wherein the legs are resiliently biased for convergent movement toward each other such that when the needle is withdrawn from the cavity defined by the distal part of the first leg, the clip moves from the first orientation to the second orientation to move the first cavity from the sliding orientation to the binding orientation, wherein the arm of the first leg releases the catheter hub and the bearing surface of the second leg engages the needle to prevent movement of the needle when the clip is in the second orientation.

21. (Original) A safety needle shield as recited in claim 15, wherein the clip further includes a transition portion that connects the plate with the first leg, the transition portion being configured to engage an inner surface of the housing to facilitate rotation of the cavity of the plate.

22. (Original) A safety needle shield as recited in claim 21, wherein the transition portion engages the inner surface of the housing to facilitate gripping engagement of the cavity of the plate with the needle.

23. (Original) A safety needle shield as recited in claim 1, wherein the first cavity includes a slot.

24. (Original) A safety needle shield as recited in claim 1, wherein the cavity of the plate includes a slot configuration.

25. (Original) A safety needle shield as recited in claim 4, wherein the plate has a greater relative rigidity than the legs.

26. (Currently Amended) A safety needle shield comprising:

a needle having a distal end and defining a longitudinal axis; and

a clip defining a first cavity dimensioned for movement of the needle therethrough, the first cavity oriented in an axis transverse to the longitudinal axis of the needle, the clip being movable from a first orientation to a second orientation to reposition the first cavity from a movable orientation to a binding orientation;

the clip including a first leg that defines a second cavity dimensioned for movement of the needle therethrough, wherein the first leg has a distal part being configured to engage a medical device when the clip is in the first orientation, the clip further including a second leg having a bearing surface that engages the needle when the clip is in both the first orientation and the second orientation, the distal part of the first leg releasably engaging the second leg when the clip is in the first orientation;

wherein the first leg and the second leg are biased for convergent movement toward each other such that when the needle is withdrawn from the second cavity, the clip moves

from a first orientation to a second orientation to move the first cavity from the movable orientation to the binding orientation, wherein the distal part of the first leg disengages from the second leg and the medical device when the clip is in the second orientation.

27. (Currently Amended) A medical clip adapted for use with a piercing member having a distal end and defining a longitudinal axis, the clip comprising:

a first cavity dimensioned for movement of the piercing member therethrough and being oriented in an axis transverse to the longitudinal axis of the piercing member, the clip being rotatable from a first orientation to a second orientation to reposition the first cavity relative to the longitudinal axis of the piercing member from a movable orientation to a binding orientation;

a first leg that defines a distal part extending therefrom and a second cavity, the second cavity being disposed distal to the first cavity and dimensioned for movement of the piercing member therethrough; and

a second leg having a bearing surface configured to engage the piercing member in both the first orientation and the second orientation of the clip,

wherein the first leg and the second leg are, relative to the first and second legs, biased for convergent movement toward each other such that when the piercing member is withdrawn from the second cavity of the first leg, the clip moves from the first orientation to the second orientation to move the first cavity from the movable orientation to the binding orientation.

28. (Original) A medical clip as recited in claim 27, wherein the clip further includes a plate having the first leg and the second leg extending therefrom, the plate defining the first cavity.

29. (Original) A medical clip as recited in claim 27, wherein the first cavity defines a binding surface that engages the piercing member in the binding orientation to prevent movement of the piercing member.

30. (Original) A medical clip as recited in claim 29, wherein the binding surface has a flared configuration that facilitates movement of the piercing member in the movable orientation and engages the piercing member to prevent movement of the piercing member in the binding orientation.

31. (Original) A medical clip as recited in claim 27, wherein the distal part of the first leg includes a transverse portion that defines the second cavity.

32. (Original) A medical clip as recited in claim 27, wherein the distal part includes a first transverse portion and a second transverse portion extending therefrom, the second cavity including separate aligned apertures defined within the first transverse portion and the second transverse portion.

33. (Original) A medical clip as recited in claim 27, wherein the second leg defines a cavity that is rotatable, relative to the longitudinal axis of the piercing member, between a movable orientation and a binding orientation, the cavity of the second leg defining a binding

surface that engages the piercing member in the binding orientation to prevent movement of the piercing member.

34. (Original) A medical clip as recited in claim 33, wherein the binding surface of the cavity of the second leg has a flared configuration that facilitates movement of the piercing member in the movable orientation and engages the piercing member to prevent movement of the piercing member in the binding orientation.

35. (Original) A medical clip as recited in claim 33, wherein a distal portion of the second leg releasably engages a catch of the first leg to facilitate movement of the piercing member in the movable orientation.

36. (Original) A medical clip as recited in claim 33, wherein a distal portion of the second leg has a catch that releasably engages and is disposed within a channel defined within the first leg, in the movable orientation.

37. (Original) A medical clip as recited in claim 27, wherein the distal part includes a first transverse portion and a second transverse portion extending therefrom, the second transverse portion defining a third cavity that is aligned with the second cavity and dimensioned for movement of the piercing member therethrough.

38. (Original) A safety shield as recited in claim 1, wherein the second leg defines a network of biasing elements configured to bias the clip.

39. (Original) A medical clip as recited in claim 38, wherein the biasing elements of the network define channels therebetween and are connected to form a continuous spring element.

40. (Currently Amended) A safety shield comprising:

a piercing member having a distal end and defining a longitudinal axis; and

a clip defining a first cavity dimensioned for movement of the piercing member therethrough and being oriented in an axis transverse to the longitudinal axis of the piercing member, the clip being movable from a first orientation to a second orientation to reposition the first cavity from a movable orientation to a binding orientation;

the clip including a first leg that defines a second cavity dimensioned for movement of the piercing member therethrough and a distal part being configured to engage a medical device when the clip is in the first orientation, the clip further including a second leg having a network of biasing elements configured to bias the clip and a bearing surface that engages the piercing member in both the first orientation and the second orientation of the clip, the biasing elements of the network defining channels therebetween and being connected to form a continuous spring element;

wherein the first leg and the second leg are biased for convergent toward each other movement such that when the piercing member is withdrawn from the second cavity of the first leg, the clip moves from the first orientation to the second orientation to move the first

cavity from the movable orientation to the binding orientation, wherein the distal part of the first leg disengages the medical device when the clip is in the second orientation.